

**Town of Needham  
Board of Selectmen  
Draft Goals Town-wide Summit Meeting  
July 28, 2009  
Broadmeadow Elementary School**

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Daniel P. Matthews at 7:00 p.m. Those present were: Mr. John Bulian, Mr. Gerald Wasserman, Mr. Maurice Handel, Ms. Denise Garlick, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Mary Hunt.

Mr. Matthews welcomed the citizens of Needham to the summit meeting and expressed his appreciation for their participation. He commented that there are many volunteer boards and committees in Needham, each one having the ability to set policy in its own area. He noted that different groups need to work together to avoid an overlap of effort. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from the boards and committees, and residents, concerning the Selectmen's Draft Goals for FY2010-2011. Mr. Matthews invited residents to speak.

Michael Greis, Chairman of the Green Needham Collaborative, asked that the Board consider a goal of Needham becoming a "Massachusetts Green Community".

Richard Zimbone, Finance Committee, Vice Chairman, stated that the Finance Committee is also working on its own set of goals, focusing on investing in capital facilities, infrastructure, and maintaining town services. Mr. Zimbone asked the Board to consider energy management programs.

Lois Sockol, Member of the Trustees of the Public Library, but speaking for herself - stated the list of goals is fabulous and thanked the Board of Selectmen for their superb job. She asked that Greendale Avenue and the Route 128 buffer be considered in discussions regarding development of a unified management plan for town-owned land and facilities and open space. Mr. Matthews advised Ms. Sockol the Board will consider her suggestion. However the land area in the Goals List (Grove Street, Charles River Street, Central Avenue, and Great Plain Avenue, and the Wellesley line) includes many acres under several jurisdictions. The Board is trying to devise a unified land management plan for that particular area.

Colleen Schaller, Senior Center Exploratory Committee, asked the Board to consider rewording its Senior Center goal to be more definitive.

Carol deLemos, Council on Aging Board, stated she is concerned with the \$1,000 cut to the Senior Corps.

Sheila Pransky, Housing Authority and Community Preservation, asked that the Board continue to work towards open dialogue between different Boards. Ms. Pransky requested the Board make sure the public understands that outside affordable housing groups can apply for CPA funding.

Peter Connolly, Board of Health, asked the Board to focus on the services in Town, especially for children and seniors.

Matthew Talcoff, Council on Economic Advisers, asked the Board to continue to explore the New England Business Center as a source of revenue, and noted that Needham currently competes with many surrounding towns.

Joe Barnes, School Committee member, commented on the newly completed High Rock School, stating that it is a wonderful facility and should be the prototype for other Town buildings.

Louise Miller, Cultural Council, thanked the Board for its past support, stating that both “New Years Needham” and the “Needham Arts Festival” have been great sources of revenue for restaurants and shop owners. She asked that the Board consider ways of securing better performance space, particularly at Newman Elementary School.

Gloria Greis, Historical Commission, stated that changes to structures change the landscape of the Town and reminded the Board that the Historical Commission has information that may be helpful on future projects.

James Hugh Powers, Town Meeting Member, suggested intensified dealings with the state government concerning the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. Mr. Powers asked the Board to look at the Regional Sales Tax for the MBTA as a means of supporting the transit system. He also suggested Needham should consider a program to develop jobs for high school students.

Meredith Page, Chair of the Traffic Management Advisory Committee, asked the Board to consider ways to increase parking in the downtown area.

Lois Bacon, Needham Library Trustee, stated that while many departments are busy because of the various Town improvements, it is

important to sustain services that citizens find valuable. She is pleased the Town is “looking within” to fund the many projects, instead of asking for State assistance.

Cathy Lunetta, Youth Commission Chair, stated that the Youth Commission has a broad range of programs and collaborates with many different committees.

Mr. Handel pointed out that there is a common ground on themes, but that the Board’s expectations should be tempered by the demands on the staff that will be caused by the move out of and back into Town Hall.

Ms. Garlick thanked everyone for their input, and stated that while the goals are only words on paper, the challenge is to bring them to fruition.

Mr. Wasserman reiterated that while many of the goals do overlap with those of other committees, it is important to work together.

Mr. Matthews thanked everyone for attending, and adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.